

# THE PRESBYTERIAN.

DECEMBER, 1863.

THIS number completes the sixteenth volume of *The Presbyterian*. It affords a fitting opportunity to tender our grateful acknowledgments to all who have befriended and supported the publication during the past year, and we accordingly do so, with, we trust, a just appreciation of their various services. We cordially thank the contributors of original communications in prose and poetry; the friends who have forwarded, from month to month, the news of our church; the readers who have supplied us with hints and suggestions, even when we were too stubborn to adopt them; and, last but certainly not least, those voluntary agents who have kindly put themselves to the trouble of securing additional subscribers, some of whom, we are delighted to know, are brethren of other churches. Our desire has been to furnish, in an agreeable form, matter that would instruct, interest, and improve all classes to whom we have access, and we are not without hope that, in some measure, our object has been gained.

We have resolved, God willing, to continue our round of monthly visitation—to play our little part in the history of Canada throughout the course of 1864, which we hope will be a year of peace and plenty as this has been—to move in all the diversified walks into which, by our own good behaviour or the forbearance of those with whom we would associate, we may obtain admission—prepared alike for the warm and friendly welcome which cheers us on, and the cold indifference which barely tolerates our presence. We would still, as heretofore, mingle in the bustling activities of town and city life, modestly finding our accustomed nook, in the offices of merchants and the rooms of clerks, upon the mahogany table or easy chair of the self-contained dwelling, and upon the plainer furniture which graces the working-man's "but and ben;" and still, as heretofore, would we make our appearance in the

quieter scenes in which the villager, and the farmer, and the pioneer of the forest pursue their avocations throughout the land, delivering at their family meetings messages of peace, words of instruction, and good news from afar, to comfort their spirits and soften the hardness of their daily toil.

It is our intention to greet our readers at the commencement of the year in a new and improved fashion. After mature deliberation, in which the counting of the cost has been the principal concern, it has been determined to carry out the project indicated in the preceding number; that is to say, to add four pages of reading matter to the contents—increasing the number of pages from 28 to 32—and put on a cover of coloured paper. The additional expense of publication will be considerable, but the price of the paper will remain the same to our subscribers—a price which, we believe, makes it the cheapest magazine of its kind in the Province. It is hoped that this resolution will be accepted as a proof of our anxiety to give every reader as much as possible for his dollar,—and that it will act as a stimulus upon every well-wisher to assist us in extending our circulation, and thus promoting, what to us is the prime object of our periodical, namely, usefulness.

In order to facilitate the assistance upon which we reckon, several plans are in contemplation. By and by, we propose to submit a liberal offer to the Students' Missionary Association for services to be asked in the way of agency, a very considerable amount of money having been agreed upon for that purpose. For the present we order to be sent to each minister and representative elder, whose name appears on the last Synod Roll, a copy of this number with four additional pages in a cover, as a specimen of what the numbers for the next twelve months are intended to be. In these, one or more subscription forms are enclosed, which, we